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### Abu Zubaydah

*March 29, 2002.* ■ was in the middle of packing ■ suitcase in ■ New York City apartment, preparing to take a long-awaited vacation and spend Easter with family in Pennsylvania, when ■ cell phone, house phone, and pager all rang consecutively. It was ■ assistant special agent in charge, Kenny Maxwell, calling from the Joint Terrorism Task Force in New York, ordering ■ to travel to a private airstrip at Dulles Airport, outside Washington, DC, for a special mission. Abu Zubaydah, America's first high-value detainee since 9/11, had been captured the night before. ■ was to help interrogate him.

The FBI had been looking for Abu Zubaydah for a while. He was originally wanted for his connection both to Ahmed Ressam's attempt to bomb Los Angeles International Airport on New Year's Eve 1999 and to the millennium plot in Jordan. Abu Zubaydah's name had come up with increasing frequency in intelligence reports after the millennium plot. While he was not a member of al-Qaeda, his role as external emir of Khaldan was of considerable importance. Senior al-Qaeda members, such as Khallad, regularly turned to Abu Zubaydah for help with passports and travel. In turn, al-Qaeda guaranteed Abu Zubaydah's protec-

curly, and messy. ■ understood why the source hadn't recognized him. ■ judged that he was around ■ age, thirty-two.

█████ were speaking in Arabic, and he apparently assumed that █████ were either Arab or Israeli intelligence agents. His image of FBI officials was of white-skinned tough guys, not native Arabic speakers. █████ took out our FBI credentials and showed them to him. Again his face registered surprise.